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Executive Registry

60-5497

8 JUL 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Request for Financial Support by Belorussian
Emigre Leader

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director with a recommendation in paragraph 5.
2. Mikola Abramchik, head of the Belorussian National Council, an emigre political organization, and of the League for the Liberation of the Peoples of the USSR (Paris Bloc), an organization of non-Russian Soviet nationality emigres, on a recent visit to the U.S. requested an appointment with the DCI or his representative. A meeting was arranged with a member of OO Contacts Division on 30 June 1960.
3. Mr. Abramchik solicited Agency financial support for emigre "political activities" to be conducted by the Paris Bloc. In doing so, he stated that "RTS and TsOPE receive appropriate financial support directly from" CIA, and he implied that the American Committee for Liberation is supported by the same sources. Abramchik's proposals were contained in a hand-written letter, in the Belorussian language, addressed to the DCI. A translation of this letter is attached.
4. The American Committee for Liberation has for several years extended limited financial assistance to the Paris Bloc principally for certain controlled propaganda activities, but it has firmly resisted continuing Bloc pressure for an organizational subsidy. Abramchik and his colleagues complain chronically over this. Not a little of the traditional factional hostility of the nationality emigres toward those of the Great Russian emigre groups also is implicit in the comparison drawn in the letter between the resources of the Bloc and those of RTS and TsOPE.

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5. It is recommended that the DCI not reply to Abramshik's letter in order to prevent possible misuse by the recipient of even the most non-committal communication. Mr. Abramshik expected to return to France in early July.

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[]
Chief
International Organizations Division

Attachment:
Nikola Abramshik letter

cc: DDCI

CONCUR:

[] 14 JUL 1960
Deputy Director (Plans)

IOD [] f (7 July 1960)

Distribution:

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Attachment

Translation of letter from Nikola Abramchik

Washington 30 June 1960

TO: Mr. Allen Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence, Washington

Included in the League for Liberation of Peoples of the U.S.S.R. (Paris Bloc), which was founded on 6 March 1953, are ten national-political centers of the following peoples:

1) Armenian, 2) Azerbaijanians, 3) Belorussians, 4) Georgians, 5) Crimean Turks, 6) Cossacks, 7) North Caucasians, 8) Tatar-Bashkirs (Idel-Ural), 9) Turkestanians and 10) Ukrainians.

In the Soviet Union these peoples compose approximately half of the population, in emigration members of the above mentioned organizations are scattered throughout the whole free world. Belorussians and Ukrainians are mainly in European countries, in North and South America and in Australia. The Moslem emigration is mainly in Turkey and the Near East in general. There is a small number of Idel-Uralians (Tatar-Bashkirs) in Japan and Finland.

The League's Central Committee is located in Munich, its Presidium is in Paris (France).

Despite the fact that this organization by its size, personnel and the quality of nationalistic sections, as a whole, considerably surpasses such emigre organizations from the Soviet Union as, for example, NRS or TsGPE, the effectiveness of the League's political activity is lower than either one's, taken separately.

The reason is that NRS and TsGPE receive appropriate financial support directly from your organization, while the League (Paris Bloc) does not get anything for its political activity, (if one does not consider the financing of the quarterly magazine "The Problems of the Peoples of the U.S.S.R." during the past year, and, from time to time, very insignificant aid for annual conventions-conferences of the League, or, also from time to time, reimbursing petty expenses of individual members of the League).

This situation the Organization, Paris Bloc, considers to be an injustice on the part of those American establishments which were assigned the task to fight Bolshevism, and, in addition, such a situation does not permit it (the Organization, Paris Bloc), to use properly its people for active work.

the formations, special services follows:
For example, since there are possibilities, a general outline for

each, separate nationalistic section.
of your organization because there can be different conditions for
late section of the Paris Bloc in coordination with specialists
4. Organizing special information services for each national-

trips to the Soviet Union and who are known to us.
3. Organized gathering of information from persons taking

who take trips from the Soviet Union from time to time.
2. Organized gathering of information from our countrymen

relatives in the U.S.S.R.
1. Concentration of information received from the Soviet
Union through personal correspondence of our emigrants and their

organization along the lines of information service.
can line of your organization), the Paris Bloc would be useful to your
Besides the purely political activity (coordinated with the political-

the Paris Bloc, an independent political organization.
able to react to external events as it would be possible to react for
the general political situation does not always allow the American Com-
Bloc would have more freedom to operate under all kinds of conditions.
responsibility for the political activity of the Paris Bloc and the Paris
view. In the first place the American Committee would be freed from
and to the Paris Bloc not only from the material-financial point of
Such a situation would be advantageous to the American Committee

Committee.
political activity would be conducted outside of the American
Committee (on the basis of partnership - alliance), but the
on the last agreement between the Paris Bloc and the American
freedom) and the Institute for Studies of the U.S.S.R. based
American Committee along the lines of radio broadcasts (radio
2. The Paris Bloc would continue to cooperate with the

in other, similar organizations are subordinated.
and subordinate it directly to your organization in the same
separate such political activity from the American Committee
position to finance the political activity of the Paris Bloc,
1. Since the American Committee of liberation is not in a

Bloc) suggests the following:
On the basis of what has been said above our Organization (Paris

1. There is a network of one and one-half million Belorussians living in Poland; six hundred thousand of them live in a compact area along the border of the Belorussian S.S.R.

It is known that contact between Belorussians in Poland and Belorussians in the B.S.S.R. is fairly free and, therefore, very frequent.

Contact between Belorussian emigrants and Belorussians in Poland does not present any special difficulties. Many emigrants have personal friends who reside in Poland and who could be assigned to take a long-term trip to Soviet Belorussia. There, among friends and acquaintances several points could be established for gathering information and passing it to points, composed of Belorussians, in Poland. Information of a general type gathered in the B.S.S.R. can then be mailed from Poland by prearranged sequence of words, or by code, or by SW. The important information can be picked up in Poland by either special agents travelling as tourists or by having that information passed to your agents who are in Poland.

2. Of course, it would be necessary to organize an information service net, one Belorussian in each country where Belorussians reside, for the purpose of gathering information as pointed out in these above paragraphs. It would be necessary to appoint one person who would be in contact with your specialist and who would receive financial support to travel and instruct his agents in various centers of various countries where Belorussians reside.

By the way, the project of organizing an information service in the Belorussian section had been submitted to your representative by Mendel Belorussians. The matter had been discussed with your representative and the project had been approved by him but, for some reason, it has not been put into operation.

In summarizing I respectfully ask you:

1. To satisfy the desire of the Party Bloc and to allow it the same possibility for political activity as your organization has allowed to the two above-mentioned organizations (SWP, Thore).
2. To resolve the problem of whether the proposed organization of information service in the Belorussian section is acceptable to you.

(Initials) M. A.

One more exceptional and special request to you.

Two years ago we asked you through Helar, your representative in Munich, to grant us financial assistance in the amount of 4,000 dollars per year for salaries of our two workers, Yan SHWILL and Viktor SHWILLING, who are working in the Belorussian section of Radio broadcasts in Madrid. The location is of exceptionally great significance in our struggle with Bolshevism because broadcasts from the Madrid area are not subject to censorship by Spanish authorities and by contrast reach their listeners in Belorussia better than those of Radio Moscow. If our request is refused we shall be forced to discontinue our broadcasts because collecting funds for our workers in Madrid among Belorussians has become too difficult. Because Belorussian emigration is now, it consists, almost exclusively, of IV II emigrants; it has not settled down. In addition, all emigrants are burdened with many demands for maintaining local Belorussian organizations, establishments, building of churches, supporting priests, etc.

(Initials) M. A.

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